BIBLE PRIMER

NEW TESTAMENT

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BIBLE PRIMER

NEW TESTAMENT

FOR USE IN THE

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

OF

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

BY

ADOLF HULT

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THE AUGUSTANA SYNOD

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Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself instituted holy baptism when He said,

"All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations,

Baptizing them

into the name of the Father and
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

Teaching them

to observe all things whatsoever
I commanded you: and lo,
I am with you always, even unto
the end of the world." *Matt. 28: 18-20*

1. JESUS LAID IN THE MANGER.

"I love to hear the story
Which angel voices tell,
How once the King of glory
Came down on earth to dwell."

Is this the King of glory?

This is He.

And is this the "Child Wonderful" that Abel and Noah and Abraham and Moses and Isaiah waited for?

This is He.

A great King and the Son of God, laid in a manger,—is He so poor?

Very poor for our sake, to save us and to make us rich.

Where is the manger? In Bethlehem. Who is the mother? Mary, the blessed Virgin. The Heavenly Father smiles for joy on His Son in that manger. He sent His Son. The Son wished to come to us. Was ever such love as the love of God? He gives us His only-begotten Son! Other kings' sons are born in palaces. This Son of the Most High King lies on straw where the sheep are bleating. He has no crown now, this little King. But He will have a crown, when He has saved His people from their sins.

Joseph is to be like a father for the little Child. And Joseph became the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Here is the happiest family in all the world: Mary, Joseph —and *Jesus*.

We, too, come to the manger to see this Child.

"It is a thing most wonderful,
Almost too wonderful for me."

2. ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS.

There were shepherds on the hills of Bethlehem. They were keeping watch by night over their flock. It is so still. Even when a mother sheep sighs you can hear it. Listen, the music of the shepherd pipes goes soft and low. Some of the little lambs are stirring in their sleep. Then they lie still again.

What — what is this?

The whole sky is light as day!

An angel is flying straight down from heaven to the shepherds. And the angel said unto them, "Be not afraid; for see, I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people. There is born to you to-day in Bethlehem a Saviour. He is Christ the Lord. Go, and you shall find the baby wrapped in baby clothes. He lies in a manger."

Then the whole choir of angels sang in the bright heaven: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Never before had shepherds heard such song.

"Come," said the shepherds one to another, "let us go into Bethlehem, and see." They went in a hurry. Ah, here is the sheep-stall. Here are Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe in the manger!

Mother Mary and Joseph listen, and listen, while the shepherds tell of all that they had seen and heard. Mary kept it in her heart.

And the shepherds went away from the manger. As they went, they were praising God and singing unto God for all that they had seen and heard.

3. THE CHILD JESUS BROUGHT TO THE TEMPLE.

You know the name of this Baby, do you not?

When He was eight days old they called Him Jesus. That means Saviour. The angel of God gave Him that name. The angel said, "You shall call His name Jesus. For it is He that shall save His people from their sins." When Jesus was a little older, Mary and Joseph brought Him to the Temple (the House of God). They were to give God a gift for the Child. It was to be either two pigeons or two turtle-doves.

See, there they come into Jerusalem. Now they are in the Temple yard. They give their gifts. They pray. The priests bless the Child Jesus.

Who are those old folks there? That is Simeon. He has waited all his life for the Saviour. To-day he comes to the Temple to pray. The Holy Spirit moved him to come. Here *is* the dear Saviour Simeon waited for! How glad Simeon is! He puts his wrinkled hands on Jesus' little head. Then he praises God. He sings: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel! Now I have seen the Saviour I waited for." That was all Simeon wanted before he died — to see Jesus.

And there is Anna, very old, a widow. She goes to the Temple every day to pray. The Holy Spirit told her especially to come to-day. Now she, too, sees Jesus. Then she praises and praises God. She hurries home. Up street, down street she goes to her relatives and friends. She tells of the newborn Saviour.

Can you see her hurrying about?

A missionary, like the angels, and like the shepherds of Bethlehem.

4. THE WISE MEN.

It is night.

A wonderful star is shining brightly in the sky.

It stands just above the house of Jesus, in Bethlehem.

Who are those men that come riding on camels over there on the hill? They are not like other people in Bethlehem. We will ask them: "Where do you come from?" "From the East. But we have just been up to Jerusalem. For we had heard of a newborn King. And we saw His star. No one in Jerusalem knew about the King. But the star led us here."

See, the three wise men step into the house where Jesus is. Oh, but they were grand-looking men! They were happy with very great joy. As soon as they saw the little Child and His mother, "they fell down before Jesus. They worshipped Him." That means they prayed to Jesus.

Mother Mary was so surprised. But she remembered again the night Jesus was born. She thought of the angel song that night. She remembered how God had promised a Saviour. I wonder if there was not a tear of joy in mother Mary's eyes?

What are the wise men doing?

They are opening their bags.

They take out gold, sweet spices, and a costly oil, called myrrh. They give these gifts to Jesus. Then they go back to their own land again.

Do you know, the wise men were from the heathen peoples! And heathen do not know our God.

God drew the wise men to Jesus.

H. Hofmann

5. JESUS AND HIS HOME IN NAZARETH.

One night an angel of the Lord came to Joseph, in a dream, and said: "Arise and take the young Child and His mother, and flee into Egypt." And Joseph did so.

By and by the angel came again and said: "Return now, for they are dead that would take the Child's life."

So Joseph came back, but not to Bethlehem. He went to Nazareth, in Galilee, where it was safer to live.

Nazareth was up among the pretty hills. You can imagine how Jesus loved to run about the hills, when He was a little boy. Joseph, His father, was a carpenter. Jesus helped him in his work.

We read in the Bible how Jesus grew. He became strong. He learned more and more of His Heavenly Father. God's loving eye rested on His Son. God was with Jesus. And all the people that knew Jesus loved the Boy. No one ever saw Him do what was wrong. He never sinned. When He played with the children, He played fair. If mother Mary asked Him to help her, He did it at once. And He was happy to do so. On the Sabbath He went to church. They called their church synagogue. A hard name, is it not? In church He was all eyes and ears. When the priests read from the Bible He listened to every word. For it was about His Heavenly Father.

Oh, I wish we had more stories of the Boy Jesus! So do you, I am sure.

We have one story, and a very lovely one, too.

That comes next.

6. THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE.

Springtime has come.

Pretty flowers bloom on the hills around Nazareth.

Why are mother Mary and father Joseph so busy to-day? And Jesus, too, is working every minute. Why?

Ah, they are going far, far away, to Jerusalem.

Jesus is twelve years old now. This year He can go with His parents to the Temple in the great city. A large festival is to be held. It is called the Passover. Jesus has not seen the Temple since He was brought to the Lord, and Simeon and Anna rejoiced to see Him. Thousands of people come to the festival. After a few days in Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary go home again. But where is their Son? They look everywhere. No one has seen Him. At last they go back to Jerusalem. They look for Him three days.

Do you know where they found Him?

In the Temple.

He sat among some of the old teachers. He was listening to them. He asked them questions. All were surprised to find how much He knew about the Heavenly Father. Then mother Mary comes over to Him. "Why did You do so to us?" His mother asks Him. "We have looked for You three days. We have been so worried." Then Jesus says to them: "Why did you look so long for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?" But they could not understand Him.

Do you understand Him, children?

He wished to say, "It is just natural for Me to want to hear all about My Heavenly Father."

7. GIVING THE CHILD JOHN A NAME.

In the beautiful white Temple at Jerusalem there were many priests. Zacharias was one of them. He was old and had no son.

One day he served at the altar. Zacharias was praying. The angel said to Zacharias: "Be not afraid. God has heard your prayers. Your wife Elizabeth shall have a son. You shall call him John. When he is born, you shall have joy and gladness. For John shall make people ready for the Saviour." Zacharias could not believe it. Elizabeth and he were too old to have a son, he thought. Because Zacharias did not believe, the angel said that he would be dumb, until the child was born.

Did the child come? Indeed, he came!

God keeps all His promises.

On the eighth day the child was to be circumcised, just as we baptize our little children. But he was to have a name. The neighbors and relatives said: "Call him Zacharias, after his father." "No," said Elizabeth, "he shall be called John." His father wanted a tablet to write on. He wrote: "His name is John." As soon as he had written, what happened? His tongue was loosed. He could speak again. And he blessed God in a lovely song of praise. The song begins: "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel. And you, child, shall be a prophet (a preacher). You shall make ready the way of the Lord."

All were surprised at these words. People talked everywhere about the child. They kept saying: "Will not this boy some day be a great man?"

John was six months older than Jesus.

We shall soon see what God makes of the little John.

8. JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHES AND BAPTIZES.

Who is that man preaching down by the river Jordan?

See how excited the people are!

Hundreds, thousands are coming to hear this strange preacher. His dress is so queer. His clothes are of camel's hair. He has a leather belt, or girdle, about his waist. And his food is grasshoppers and wild honey.

Hear how he cries aloud to the people: "Make ready the way of the Lord. Make his paths straight." And the people ask: "What, then, must we do?" And he answers: "Repent of your sins and be baptized." Soldiers come up to him, and say: "What must we do?" "Quit robbing people, and being hard. Feel sorry for your sins." Taxgatherers come: "What, then, must we do?" "You must not take more money from people than you have a right to. Repent of your sins. Confess them. Be baptized. Get forgiveness of your sins." Then he tells the people: "If you become God's children, you will live as God's children. You will love to do God's will."

Many felt sorry for their sins. They were baptized, and their sins were forgiven by God. Day after day John preached and baptized. It was a wonderful time, down by the river Jordan. Whom was John making the way ready for?

For Jesus!

And do you remember when John was a little baby? Then all that saw him said: "He will some day be a great man."

Here he is, the greatest of all men before Jesus.

9. JESUS BAPTIZED AND TEMPTED.

Jesus is thirty years old now.

He comes to John to be baptized. John did not at first wish to baptize Jesus. But Jesus said: "Let it be so now." So John baptized Him. Then the heavens opened. The Spirit of God came down on Jesus like a dove. A voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son. In Him I am well pleased." It was the Heavenly Father that spoke.

Then the Holy Spirit led Jesus out into the wilderness. He was to be tempted, or tried, by the devil.

The devil tempted Him three times.

When Jesus was hungry the devil said: "If You are the Son of God, You can do everything. Make these stones into bread." He did not wish Jesus to wait until God gave Him bread. But Jesus answers, "No." He tells Satan what the Word of God says.

Then the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem. He brought Him up on the high wall of the Temple. "Throw Yourself down here," said the devil. "If You are the Son of God, God will take care of You." Jesus again answers, "No." He tells Satan that the Word of God says: "You must not tempt the Lord your God."

At last the devil brought Jesus up on a very high mountain. "Bow down and worship me (pray to me). Then I will give you all the world, and all the glory of the world." But Jesus said: "Away, Satan! You must worship only the Lord your God. You must serve Him only."

Then Satan left Him.

And angels came and served Jesus.

10. JOHN THE BAPTIST POINTS TO JESUS.

What do people sometimes call John the Baptist?

He is sometimes spoken of as "the finger pointing to Christ."

Why?

Because John pointed to Jesus. Again and again he showed people to the Saviour.

For instance, one day he said: "I baptize in water. But right among you stands One that you do not know. He will baptize with the Holy Spirit." So when the people heard John preach, some thought that he must be Christ. But John said: "I am not Christ. Christ comes after me. He is greater than I."

On the next day John sees Jesus coming to him. It is down by the river Jordan, where John baptized. Here is a fine chance for John to point to Jesus Himself. Before he had spoken *about* Jesus.

Look, there He is!

Then John lifts his hand. He points straight to Jesus, and says: "Behold (see), the Lamb of God. He takes away the sin of the world. This is He that I told you of. He was long before me. He is the Son of God."

The next day John and his disciples stood there. Jesus again came walking. And John said: "Behold, the Lamb of God!"

Remember this beautiful name of Jesus: "The Lamb of God."

11. THE FIRST DISCIPLES OF JESUS.

A disciple is one who follows Jesus and learns of Him.

I will tell you of Jesus' first disciples. They were fishermen. And they lived by the blue, blue lake in Galilee.

One day — 'tis a lovely story — one day Jesus was walking along the shore of the lake. And He saw two brothers, Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were just then throwing their fish-nets into the water to catch fish. "Come and follow Me," said Jesus to them. "I will make you fishers of men." Did you ever hear anything so strange: "Fishers of men"! What is that? It means, preachers about Jesus, who lead men to Jesus.

Did they follow?

They surely did.

They left their nets right away, and followed Jesus.

And then He walked on a little farther. There sat two other fishermen. They also were brothers. Their names were James and John. And they were mending their broken fish-nets. Jesus called them to follow Him.

Did they?

Of course they did, right away.

They left their boats and their father, and followed Jesus.

See them there with Jesus. And picture to yourself Jesus, preaching everywhere about the kingdom of God. See how Jesus is curing the sick people. And these disciples are with Him always.

If you listen to Jesus with your whole heart, *you* are His disciple, too.

12. THE WEDDING AT CANA.

Sweet springtime has come again. See, red, red flowers on the pomegranate trees! And the dark olive trees look so fine. The grass is fresh. There are flowers all over. Sweet springtime in Jesus' land!

Here comes Jesus, going to the little town of Cana on the hill. There is a wedding to-night. Jesus' mother and His five disciples are invited. The doors stand wide open, so Jesus walks into the house. The wedding feast begins. All have a happy time.

What is the matter? Mary comes to Jesus. She looks worried. She says to Jesus: "They have no wine left." She felt sure Jesus would help. So she told the servants to do whatever Jesus asked them to do.

There stood six large jars in the house. "Fill them with water," said Jesus. The servants did so. "Now take it to the master of the wedding." He tasted it. Can you imagine it? The water had changed into the finest wine! "Why," said the master of the wedding to the bridegroom, "you have kept the good wine until now!"

This was the first miracle, or wonder, that Jesus did. He showed that He was the true Son of God. And His disciples believed on Him. No one could have done such a wonder, but the Son of God, they said.

All the house was now full of joy over Jesus' gift and wonder.

13. JESUS AND THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA.

It is a warm day, just at noontime. Jesus is tired after a long walk. He sits down at the edge of Jacob's well. And He is thirsty, the dear Saviour. If He only could draw some cool water from the well! But He has no jar.

Here comes a woman, a Samaritan woman. Samaritans did not know the true God. This woman has a rope and jar.

"Give me a drink," says Jesus. "How can you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan?" she answers. "If you only knew who asks you, you would ask Him to give you *living* water," Jesus said. "Any one that drinks the water that I shall give him shall never thirst."

The woman thought Jesus meant well water. He did mean water for our thirsty souls. That is the Word of God. It is as good for our souls as water is for our bodies. But still the woman could not understand. So Jesus spoke to her of her many sins. He helped her to understand that she must be saved. Then she saw that Jesus knew her heart. And Jesus told her that He was the Christ, the Saviour. She was so surprised and happy. She left her jar, ran into town, and cried out: "Come, see a man that has told me all that I ever did."

Jesus saved this heathen woman. She led many people of the city of Sychar to Jesus. They, too, were saved.

This was a joyful day in Samaria.

14. THE NOBLEMAN COMES TO JESUS FOR HIS SON.

Hear about the sick boy that Jesus made well!

The boy's father was rich. He lived in Capernaum, down by the lake. People often took sick from fever in Capernaum. The father heard Jesus was up in Cana, in the hills. So he hurried early in the morning, in February, to Cana. About one o'clock in the afternoon he came there. Can you see how fast he rides on his donkey to Jesus' house? Oh, here is Jesus!

"My boy is so sick. He is almost ready to die," said the worried father to Jesus. "Come down and make him well." And when Jesus did not promise at once, the nobleman said: "Oh, do come, before my boy dies!"

Then Jesus looked at the father lovingly and said: "Go home. Your boy lives. He shall not die." The father believed Jesus' word. He went his way. It was beautiful springtime in Jesus' land then, in February. The birds sang for joy. And the father was happier than all the birds.

Here come his servants and meet him on the way. "Your son lives," they said. " When did he get better?" asked the father. "Oh, about one o'clock in the afternoon," they answered. Then the father remembered, it was just when Jesus said to him: "Your boy lives."

And he and all in his house believed in Jesus. What a happy home it was now!

This was the second miracle, or wonder, that Jesus did.

15. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

See, there is a great crowd of people on the side of a mountain!

Some one is talking to them. Who? It is Jesus. He is preaching the Sermon on the Mount. Come, let us listen to what He says! Look how carefully John and Peter are listening.

He tells the people that God blesses them that hunger and thirst for God. He explains the commandments of God. He even teaches them to pray, "Our Father, who art in heaven." "Love your enemies," He says, "pray for them." "Do not worry about your daily bread." Why? "Your Heavenly Father knows that you need daily bread."

"Let your light shine," He says. What does He mean by that? That you are to let other people see that you love your Lord God. Then they may, perhaps, also wish to become the children of God. They may want to be a "light in the world."

"If you listen to My word," so He ended, "then you are like a wise man. He built his house on solid rock. Then came storms. But the house did not blow down. It was built on the rock."

When Jesus was through, the people looked at each other They had never heard such a wonderful sermon before. And they said: "No one we ever have heard preached like He preaches."

And Jesus *is* the best preacher, is He not?

16. THE HEALING OF THE PALSIED MAN.

What is a palsied man?

One so sick he can not move.

Once Jesus preached in a house, many people came there. There was not even room around the door. A palsied man heard Jesus was come. The man had been helpless a long time. But how could he get into the house? It was packed with people.

"Ah, this is the way," said some of the men. "We will tear up the roof. We will make a hole big enough to let him down." You see, roofs there were flat, and made of timbers, and laths, and then plastered over with clay mixed with straw or twigs of a thorn bush.

Down he comes on his mat, or bed!

Jesus says to him: "Your sins are forgiven." This made Jesus' enemies angry. They said: "Only God can forgive sins." Then Jesus asked them: "Which is easier for Me to *say*, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to *say*, 'Take your bed and walk'?" And to show them that He could both forgive sins and help the man, He said: "Stand up, and take your bed. Walk home."

And the man did so!

All saw him rise up, take his mat, and go home. They were surprised. They praised God, and said: "We never saw the like of it!" Children, there is no helper like our Jesus!

17. THE CALLING OF MATTHEW.

When Jesus had cured the palsied man, He went down by the lake. It was called the Sea of Galilee. A lovely blue lake it is. Here sat a man called Matthew. He was a taxgatherer. What is that? A man who gathers money for the government. Taxgatherers were often bad men. They took too much money away from the people. But Jesus can save bad folks. So he called out to Matthew: "Follow Me." And Matthew got up and followed Jesus. He became a disciple of Jesus.

Later in the day, he made a feast for Jesus, and asked Him home to a meal. He invited many of his friends. They were taxgatherers, and people like that. Some other guests thought it was strange that Jesus would go into such a house. So they said to Jesus' disciples: "Why does your Master eat with people like the taxgatherers?"

Jesus came to hear that. He answered them: "Don't you know that those who are strong need no doctor? I have come to this world to save them that are sick from sin. I am come to save sinners."

From that day Matthew was a true disciple of the Lord Jesus.

18. CHRIST SENDING OUT THE APOSTLES.

When Jesus one day saw the great crowds of people, He was very sad. They were like sheep that have no shepherd. No one preached to them aright. No one loved them or cared for them. So Jesus took twelve men. He called them apostles. Some of them were poor fishermen. But they left all to follow Jesus.

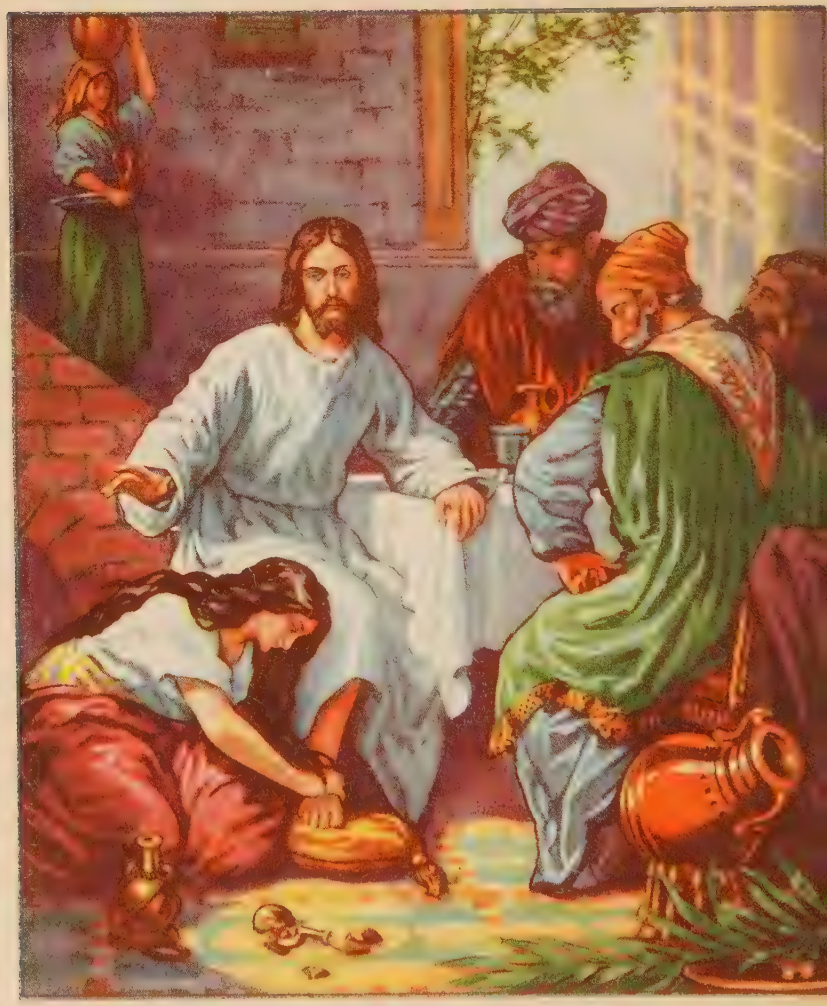
Do you want to hear their names?

There is Peter and his brother Andrew, then James and his brother John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew — you remember him — and Thomas, and one more James, and Simon, and Judas, the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot.

Here they all stand around Jesus. Then Jesus lifts His hand, and points out over the land. "Go to the people," He says, "tell them about their sins. Tell the Good News about God's forgiveness. Show them what it is to love God. Cure their sick people. Make the dead alive again."

Out they went, the twelve apostles. Some on one street, some on another. They went into towns and into the country. All twelve were missionaries. That day Jesus was glad, for He loved the people. Now He knew they would hear of the dear Heavenly Father, and of the Saviour.

Will you remember these apostles?



19. THE ALABASTER VASE.

A man, named Simon, had asked Jesus again and again to take dinner with him. At last Jesus said He would come. So Jesus went to his house. He took His place at the table. It was a fine home. Quietly, quietly in comes a woman, while they sat eating. She carries a vase, or bottle of perfume, very costly. The woman was dressed plain. She was a great sinner.

What! See! she goes just behind Jesus and bows down at His feet. She is crying. Her tears fall on Jesus' feet. With her hair she wipes His feet. She kisses His feet lovingly. Look, she breaks the vase, and pours perfume on His feet. The sweet smell fills the whole house.

But the man that had invited Jesus said to himself: "If Jesus only were as great as they say, He would know what kind of a woman this is." He was a proud man. He did not love sinners, as Jesus did. His heart was hard.

Jesus knew what Simon thought. So He said to Simon: "Simon, do you know why this woman does this? Her many sins are forgiven. That is why she loves so much." And He turned to the woman and said: "Go home, and peace be with you."

How ashamed Simon must have felt, that his heart was so hard.

And Jesus is all love to sinners that come to Him.

20. JOHN PREACHES TO KING HEROD.

John the Baptist, you remember him, do you not? He that preached by the river Jordan? That ate grasshoppers and wild honey? That pointed to Jesus, and said: "Behold, the Lamb of God"?

I am sure you remember him.

One day he went up to a wicked king. His name was Herod. He had taken his brother's wife, and lived with her. John said to the king: "You have no right to have Herodias!" That was her name. But Herodias became angry. She would have killed John. But the king knew in his heart that John was right. How awful to know what is right, and then not do it!

Herodias did not forget John. She waited for her chance. There came a holiday. It was Herod's birthday. A great feast was given in the palace. The generals and rich people came. And the daughter of Herodias danced. Herod was drunk. So he promised he would do anything the dancer wanted. She went and asked her mother. She said: "Let John be killed."

Oh, how terrible! They went to the prison, took John, and killed him. But his friends buried him in a grave. John was ready to die. He loved his Lord God and Jesus. A long time after, Herod died. I could not tell you what an awful death he had. And he was not ready to die.

21. THE FEEDING OF THE FIVE THOUSAND.

When Jesus heard that John the Baptist was dead, what did He do?

He went far off to a lonely place with His disciples.

Why?

To pray, and to be with His Heavenly Father.

Jesus went over in a boat. The people watched the boat. They hurried after it. Crowds and crowds came. See them walking in the green grass on the hillside, by the lake. For what? To have Jesus cure their sicknesses.

All day they kept coming and going. There was no time to eat. And they had no food. The sun was setting across the lake. Oh, darkness would soon be here, and the poor people so hungry! The disciples were excited. "What shall we do?" they said. Jesus knew.

He said: "Bring them to Me." They came. "Sit down on the grass," said Jesus. But where is the food? Jesus knew. There stood a little boy over there. He had five loaves of bread and two fishes. Ah, but there were five thousand men, and then women and children beside! Never mind! Look, Jesus prays to His Father to bless the loaves and fishes. "Now give the people," He says. And the disciples begin carrying out the food. Is there enough? More than enough! "Gather up all the broken pieces," Jesus said. There were twelve baskets full left!

What a wonder of love was this!

Then the people went to their homes. Many thanked God. Others wondered who Jesus might be to be able to do such great miracles.

22. THE WOMAN OF CANAAN.

After John's death, Jesus often thought of His own coming death. He wished to be much alone. He wanted to teach His disciples. So He went far away from His land. Where? To Tyre and Sidon.

He went into a house, and did not wish any one to know it.

There was a poor woman who had a daughter that was very sick. She heard Jesus had come. So she hurried to the house where He was. She fell down at His feet and cried again, and again, and again: "Do help me, Lord. My daughter is very sick."

This woman was a heathen.

But Jesus paid no attention to her at first. His disciples begged Him to do so. At last Jesus said: "It is not right to take the bread away from the children, and give it to the little dogs." They used to call the heathen "dogs." Jesus wanted to try her faith. Then the woman answered beautifully: "Yes, but even the little dogs eat of the crumbs that fall under the table." Do you know what she meant? I will tell you? She meant: "Lord, I know You ought to help Your people, the Jews. And we are only heathen. But if You will only help a little — just like little crumbs — how thankful I will be."

Then the dear Lord looked lovingly at her and said: "O woman, you have a great faith. Go, your daughter shall live."

When she came home, what do you think? The child lay on the bed and was well. Her prayer was heard. It helped to beg hard of Jesus.

23. THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

A shepherd is one who takes care of sheep.

The sheep listen to him; and he calls his own sheep by name. He leads them out to green pastures. He knows just where the good brook is with the pure water. When he has brought them all out, he walks in front of them. The sheep and the little lambs follow him, because they know his voice. If any one that they do not know calls them, they will not follow. They are afraid and run away from him. If any little lamb gets hurt, the good shepherd takes care of it. If a wolf or bear comes, the shepherd will fight with it. He will even die, rather than let the sheep get hurt.

Once Jesus said: "I am the good Shepherd. I know My sheep, and they know Me." What does He mean? That He knows His dear children who love Him, and they know Jesus. If we follow Him, then He is like a shepherd to us. He cares for us. He protects us. He has even died for us, to save us. We know Him, too. There is no one else we would follow like Jesus, is there? If we did, then we would be lost forever.

Whenever we read His word, we hear our Shepherd's voice. When we listen to His word, and do it, then we follow Him. King David said: "The Lord is my Shepherd." And we sing: "I am Jesus' little lamb."

Is there anything sweeter than to be Jesus' lamb? Nothing.

24. THE GOOD SAMARITAN.

Sometimes when Jesus was teaching, He would tell a story. He did that to make people understand better.

At one time He told this story:

A man was going down the lonely road from Jerusalem to Jericho. It was a steep, rocky road, and was full of robbers. All at once, out jumped some robbers! They struck him till he fell. They took his money, even his clothes. And they left him half dead on the stony road. See him there, bleeding, pale, naked. Will no one come to help?

Here comes a man; he will help. Oh, no, he looks out for himself only. So he sees the man and passes by.

Another man is coming. He goes to the spot, looks at the poor man lying there, and walks on.

Then came a Samaritan. You remember Samaritans and Jews were often enemies. But when this Samaritan saw the man, he felt sorry for him. He went to him. He bandaged his sores, and poured medicine into them. And then, see, carefully he lifts him on his own mule, and brings him to an inn, or hotel. Yes, he gives the innkeeper some money, and says: "Take care of him. If it costs more, I will pay you the next time I come."

"Which of these three men was a kind friend?" Jesus asked.

"The good Samaritan," was the answer.

"Then you go and do as he did," said Jesus.

25. BUSY MARTHA.

Near Jerusalem was a little town, called Bethany. There lived two sisters and a brother. The sisters were Martha and Mary. The brother was Lazarus. And they loved Jesus. Martha invited Him to their home. It was a pleasant home. Jesus often went there. He needed to rest in a quiet home sometimes. You remember He had no home of His own.

See, Martha is making supper ready, and is so busy. Mary sits down at Jesus' feet, and listens to His teaching. She likes that best.

Martha is so worried about waiting at table. She goes up to Jesus, and says: "Should Mary leave me to do all the work alone? Come, tell her to help me." And Jesus looks up at Martha, and says, kindly but earnestly: "Martha, Martha, you are worrying about so many things. Only one thing is really necessary. Mary has chosen the best of all. And that is to sit and learn of Me."

Jesus was happy to be a guest in that cheerful home. But He was more glad to have His friends learn of Him, and of His Father in heaven. Jesus loves to have us work for Him. He is most anxious, though, that we should let Him serve us, and save us.

I suppose good-hearted and busy Martha never forgot this loving lesson. Or how?

26. THE PRODIGAL SON LEAVES HIS HOME.

Listen to the finest of the stories Jesus told.

A rich man had two boys. One was quiet. The other was wild. The wild young boy was tired of staying home. He wanted to go out into the world. One day he said to his father: "Father, give me the money I ought to have from our home." What should the poor father do! He gave him, although his heart was breaking. Off goes the son to a far-away country.

Here he lived wild, spent all his money, his last penny. He had not even a place to sleep. That year nothing grew on the farms in that land. The young man hired out to a farmer, to tend his swine (hogs). Even then he wished he could make a hearty meal of the pods that the swine ate. No one gave him.

There he sits one day among the swine.

He is hungry. He is thinking hard.

And now he remembers his good home that he left. He thinks of father, and of his own sins. He says to himself: "Even my father's hired men fare better than I. I am dying of hunger. I will get up and go to my father. I will say to him: 'Father, I have sinned against God and you. I am not fit to be your son. But will you not let me come home and be one of your hired servants?' "

Next time, we will hear the rest.

27. THE PRODIGAL SON COMES HOME AGAIN.

So he got up and went home to his father.

How he looked as he walked on the road! His clothes in rags. Shoes torn. His face pale and hungry-looking. His hair long and dirty. And tears in his eyes. Ah! the father has watched to see him come down the road. There he is. And the father starts off, runs to meet him, afar off even, throws his arms around his neck, and kisses him again and again. "Father," says the boy, "I have sinned against God and you. I am not fit to be your son." And he sobs on his father's breast.

Then the father *forgives his son.* He turns to his servants and says: "Quick, fetch a robe — the very best — and put it on him. Give him a ring on his finger, and shoes on his feet. Bring the fatted calf, kill it, let us eat and be happy. For this my son was lost and is found."

And they made a big feast for the returned son. There was music and song, and the best of things to eat, and the father was happy with his lost son.

"Such," said Jesus, "is My heart, and My Heavenly Father's heart to all poor sinners who want to be saved. When they turn back to Me, I will forgive them. And the angels in heaven will strike their harps for joy."

28. LAZARUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

You remember the home of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, do you not? Jesus loved to rest in that home.

Once when Lazarus, the brother, was very sick, the sisters sent word to Jesus. They said: "Your friend is sick." After four days Jesus came. Then Lazarus was dead and buried.

Martha said to Jesus: "If You only had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that God gives You whatever You ask." Jesus answered: "Your brother shall rise again."

"Where have you laid him?" asked Jesus. And they took Jesus to the grave. Then He looked up to heaven, and said, "Father, I thank You that You always hear Me." Then He called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" And he came out. "Take the grave-clothes off from him," said Jesus. Lazarus then went home. When Mary, Martha, and all the friends of Jesus, saw what He did, then what? Then they believed on Him, that He was the Son of God.

Were Martha and Mary happy to have their brother again? Did they love Jesus more than ever? Did they believe that Jesus could raise up the dead?

I forgot to tell you one thing more: When Jesus was at the grave, He said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life." That means, "All life is from Me." How often Martha must have thought of that word afterwards!

29. JESUS CALLING CHILDREN TO HIMSELF.

One day some mothers brought their little children to Jesus.

They wished Jesus would bless their children. When He blessed little ones He put His hands on their heads and spoke good words of God over them.

But Jesus' disciples tried to hinder the mothers. The disciples thought Jesus had no time for little ones. They were afraid the children might disturb Jesus in His work. They had forgotten how Jesus loves the children!

When the dear Lord Jesus saw the disciples turning the children away, He was much displeased with them. He said right earnestly to them: "Let the little children come to Me. Do not forbid them. Because the kingdom of God is for just such little ones."

And then He took them up in His arms. He put His loving hands on them and blessed them.

Oh, what a beautiful sight, and what a loving Saviour of children!

30. THE RICH YOUNG MAN.

Here comes a young man running up to Jesus. See, he throws himself down on his knees before Jesus. He looks up, and says: "Good Teacher, what shall I do to get to heaven?"

"You know what God has commanded," said Jesus.

"Oh, I have done all that since I was a boy," he answered.

The young man was very rich. And he loved his money with all his heart. Jesus knew this. So He said, "If you want to be fit for heaven, go, sell all that you have. Give it to the poor. Then come, and *follow Me.*"

Ah, Jesus knew what was his trouble. When He asked him to do this, the young man's face became very sad. He went away sorry. For he was rich, and he loved his riches more than all else. He would rather have them, and lose Jesus.

When he was gone, Jesus turned to His disciples, and said: "How hard it is for a rich man to come to heaven." But God can change their hearts. Then they will love riches in heaven more than riches in this world.

Then Peter stepped up, and said: "See, we have left all, and followed Thee." And Jesus answered: "Any one who has left anything for Me shall have a hundred times more now and in heaven." Why did not the rich young man stop and think of that?

31. THE BLIND BARTIMEUS.

Jesus is now near the end of His life. He comes to the city of Jericho, on His way up to Jerusalem.

There sits a blind beggar by the road. Poor man, with no one to care for him! "Who is going by?" he asks. "Jesus," they said. Then he shouts: "Jesus, do help me!" But the people around him told him to quit shouting. Then he cried out all the louder, "Son of David, have pity on me!"

Jesus stopped. "Call him," He said. So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they told him. "Get up, He is calling you." And the man became so happy that he threw his coat off, jumped up, and came to Jesus. "What do you want Me to do for you?" asked Jesus. "Sir," said the blind man, "I want to see again." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has cured you."

And he could see at once.

He began following Jesus on the road, the happiest beggar in Jericho.

Wherever Jesus went He did good, helped the poor, the blind, the sick, the lame, and raised many dead. What a Saviour is our Jesus!

32. ZACCHEUS CLIMBS INTO THE TREE.

Such a crowd of people out to-day in Jericho!

What is happening?

Oh, Jesus is here! He is on His way up to Jerusalem. And, look, Zaccheus, the rich taxgatherer, is running ahead of the crowd. See, he is climbing up into a sycamore tree. A grown up man act like that! Ah, he wants to see Jesus, what sort of a man Jesus is. And he cannot for the crowd. Zaccheus is a short, little man. So he runs to the sycamore tree on the other street. He knows that Jesus must pass that way.

And Jesus comes to the tree on that street. He looks up and says: "Zaccheus, come down at once, for I must stop at your house to-day." Zaccheus comes down, hurries home, and welcomes Jesus there joyfully. But the people of Jericho complained, "Jesus goes to stay in the house of such a sinner!" They did not know how Jesus loves to save sinners like Zaccheus.

Then Zaccheus stood in his home and said: "Jesus, if I have cheated anybody, I will give him back four times as much. I will give half of all I own to the poor." When Jesus saw that Zaccheus felt sorry for his sins, He forgave him all. And He said to Zaccheus, and to all in his house, "I, the Son of man, am come to search for those that are lost, and to save them."

33. JESUS RIDING INTO JERUSALEM.

Here is the Mount of Olives.

On the other side is Jerusalem. Jesus is going there. It is His last journey, before He dies on the Cross. He says to His disciples: "Go to the little town right over there, Bethphage, and you will see a she-ass and a colt alongside of her. Untie them, and bring them to Me." They did so. Do you know, hundreds of years before, a prophet of God had said that this was to happen! He sang:

> "See, your king is coming to you,
> gentle, and riding on an ass."

It was near Easter. The Mount of Olives was full of people living in tents. See, they join the procession, Jesus riding ahead! They throw their mantles in the road where Jesus passes. They used to do so for kings, then. They cut down branches of palm trees and scatter them on the road. And they sing to Jesus as to a king:

> "Hosanna to the Son of David!
> Blessed is He that comes in the Lord's Name!
> God in the highest heavens save Him!"

Jesus *is* the true King of all kings. So God ordered this song for Him. It was a wonderful day for Jesus, this Palm Sunday, as we call it.

The next morning Jesus went to Jerusalem again. Then, do you know, the children had learned the song. They sang to Jesus:

> "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

34. THE TEN VIRGINS.

Jesus had been to the Temple in Jerusalem the last time before He died.

It was sunset. He went out and sat down over on the Mount of Olives. His disciples were with Him. And He spoke to them of the end of the world. He asked them to watch for Him, until He came back again to this world. To help them understand, He told a kind of a story:

There was to be a wedding one night. There were ten bridesmaids, "virgins." They took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of the virgins were sensible. They took plenty of oil for their lamps. Five virgins were foolish. They took only a little oil. The bridegroom waited long. All the virgins fell asleep. "Awake, the bridegroom is coming!" The virgins awoke. But the foolish virgins begged the others: "Give us oil, our lamps are going out." "No," they said, "then we will not have enough. You go and buy." They did. When they were gone, the bridegroom came, and went with the wise maidens into the wedding house. And the door was shut. "Oh, sir, open the door for us," cried the five foolish virgins, and knocked on the door. But the bridegroom answered, "I do not know you." And they had to go away. They could not be at the wedding.

"So," said Jesus, "keep awake, watch for Me till I come and bring you to the wedding in heaven."

Who is the Bridegroom in heaven? *Jesus.*

Who is His bride? All that believe in Jesus and love Him.

35. JESUS TAKEN CAPTIVE.

The priests in Jerusalem and many people hated Jesus, because He preached the truth. They made a plan to kill Him. Even Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, was not true to Him. He promised Jesus' enemies to show them where Jesus stayed. Then they could take Him prisoner.

In the dark night Jesus went to a garden, called Gethsemane, to pray. Peter, James, and John were with Him. He asked His Father to help Him save us from our sins. And the Father heard Him. Then He said to His disciples, "Up, and let us go. Judas is coming!" What! Soldiers with torches, men with swords and clubs, a crowd of people! Why are they out in the night? To catch Jesus. Here comes Judas. He pretends to be Jesus' friend. He kisses Jesus. Right then the men took Jesus, and held Him fast. And Jesus spoke to them, "Have you come out to-night with swords and clubs to arrest Me? I am no robber. I used to be with you many days in the Temple. You never took Me then." He meant to say, "God lets you do it this time. Otherwise you would not be strong enough to take Me, the Son of God."

And all Jesus' friends left Him. They were afraid, and ran away from Him.

Dear Jesus, the Friend of all, and now all His friends leave Him! He was to suffer this, too, for our sake, to save us.

36. PETER DENIES CHRIST.

Peter was Jesus' disciple. But he often thought he knew better than Jesus. And Jesus had warned him: "Before the cock crows two times to-night, you will three times say you do not know Me."

When they took Jesus prisoner, Peter waited outside in the yard. It was a cool night. He was warming himself by a little fire. A servant girl from the high priest's house came. She looked at Peter, and said: "You were with Jesus, too." But he answered: "I don't — I don't understand. — What do you mean?" And the cock crowed, once. Then he went out into the porch. A servant saw him, and said to the people, "This fellow is one of them." But he answered, "No, no, no!" Soon afterward a man that stood by said, "You surely are one of them. We can tell by your talk." Then Peter — oh, how sad! — broke out into swearing, again and again. He said: "I do not know this man Jesus that you are talking about." No sooner had he spoken than a cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered the words of Jesus, when He warned him to watch and pray.

Oh, why do we so quickly forget what Jesus tells us!

When Peter thought of Jesus' words, he went out and wept aloud.

37. THE CRUCIFIXION.

Who hangs there on that Cross?

It is Jesus, the Son of God!

Why is Jesus *there?* For His own sins? No, He has no sins. I will tell you why. Fold your hands, while you listen.

You see, He is nailed to the Cross, nails in hands and feet, as if He were a robber or murderer. They used to crucify robbers in those times. Two robbers are hanging on crosses, one on each side of Jesus. Look, Jesus' head bleeds! A crown of thorns has been pressed into His sacred head. He is pale and dying. Yet people mock Him, and spit on Him. One of the robbers, a hard man, says, "If You are Christ, then save Yourself and us." At noon all the land grows dark as night for three hours. Even Jesus' Heavenly Father does not answer Him. He cries out, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Man and God have left Him.

Jesus prays for His enemies, loves them. *Oh, He is "the Lamb of God, taking away the sin of the world." For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son to die on that Cross.* The last words of Jesus on the Cross are, "Father, into Thy hands I leave My spirit." Then He bows His head, and dies.

And the earth shook, and the rocks burst, and the soldiers said, "Surely this was the Son of God." Now Jesus has given His life for our sins, as God promised in the garden of Eden long ago. Now the blood of Jesus Christ can wash us of all our sins.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

38. THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF JESUS.

The sun was near setting when Jesus died.

The next day was the Sabbath. No one was allowed to hang on a cross over the Sabbath. So one of Jesus' friends, a rich man, named Joseph of Arimathea, went and took down His body. How carefully he must have done it, in love to the blessed Jesus! Then Joseph brought the body of Jesus to a new grave, in his own garden. No one had ever lain in that tomb. It was cut like a small room into a rock. And another rich man, Nicodemus, a friend also, brought costly oils. So they wrapped the body in white linen cloths with the oils. And Mary Magdalene and the other Mary followed after, and saw what Joseph did. When he had finished, he rolled a great stone to the door of the cool tomb and went home. But the women sat at the tomb and wept. Then they, too, left, to make ready more spices and oils. For there was too little time before sundown to do all that should be done to the body of Jesus.

Can you feel how lonely the disciples and friends of Jesus felt that evening? Their Master was dead and buried! And, worst of all, they had forgotten His promise that He would rise again on the third day. So they wept and talked quietly with one another. It was the saddest Passover Sabbath in their whole life.

But the Roman soldiers kept guard at the grave.

39. THE ANGELS IN THE SEPULCHRE.

Hear! The earthquake is shaking all Jerusalem, and the place where Jesus is buried. And, see, a shining angel comes from heaven, and rolls away the stone from the grave! God has raised up Jesus from the dead.

Very early that morning, before sunrise, Mary Magdalene and the other women came to the grave. They brought oils and spices for His body. As they walked, they were saying to each other, "Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the tomb?" Quiet, here they are in the olive tree garden! There is the grave. Oh, the stone is rolled away! But Jesus' body — *gone!* And Mary Magdalene runs to tell Peter and John. The other women go into the grave. There sits an angel in the tomb. His face is like lightning. His clothes shine white as snow. And the women tremble for fear. But the kind angel says: "I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He is risen, even as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell His disciples."

Here come Peter and John running. Peter goes in, John not. And Peter saw the linen cloths and the napkin folded by itself. Then John also went in. He saw and believed that Jesus had risen.

It was "the third day," as Jesus had promised. And the very birds sang for joy in that early spring morning.

40. MARY AT THE SEPULCHRE.

Mary Magdalene stood outside at the tomb weeping. She loved Jesus with a special love, for He had driven out seven evil spirits from her.

And as she wept, she stooped, and looked into the tomb — the cool grave-room, where the Lord had lain. And she saw two angels, all white. They were sitting, one at the head of the grave, the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And the angels said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?" She says to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

When she had said this, she turned around, and there she sees Jesus Himself standing! But she knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Whom are you looking for?" She thought that He was the gardener that took care of the lovely olive grove, where the tomb was. So she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, do tell me where you have laid Him." Jesus said to her, *"Mary!"* She turned herself, and said to Him, "Master," that is, Teacher. And she fell on her knees, and started to take hold of His blessed feet. But Jesus said to her, "Do not touch Me, for I have not yet gone up to My Father. But go and tell My dear disciples that I go up to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God."

And she ran and said to them: "I have seen the Lord, I have seen the Lord!" Then she told them what Jesus had said. This was the first time Jesus showed Himself, after He had risen from the dead.

41. THE WALK TO EMMAUS.

On the very day that Jesus rose, two of His disciples were walking to Emmaus, a little town near Jerusalem. And Jesus came and walked with them. But they did not know Him. "What are you talking about, as you walk?" Jesus asked. "Do You live all by Yourself at Jerusalem? Do You not know what has happened there these last days?" said Cleopas. "What things?" Jesus asked. "About Jesus," he answered. "He was a great prophet (preacher), did wonderful things. He was crucified. But we thought He was going to set Israel free. And now it is three days since He died. And this morning some of our women surprised us. They said they saw angels at His grave. But Jesus Himself they did not see."

Then Jesus answered, "Foolish men! Why have you not believed the Bible? It says that the Saviour *must* suffer and die." Then He explained the Word of God to them.

It was getting late. So they asked Jesus to stay over night with them. He went in and took His place at the table with them. He said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave them. Ah! and then they *knew* Him! And then He was gone out of sight!

How they talked that evening with each other about it all! They said: "Was not our heart happy, when He talked with us on the road and when He explained the Word of God to us!"

This was the loveliest Sunday evening in their lives.

42. DOUBTING THOMAS.

The same first day of the week Jesus' disciples in Jerusalem were together. It was evening. The doors were locked. The disciples were afraid of the Jews. See, then Jesus comes! He stands right among them, and says, "Peace be to you."

He shows them His hands and His feet. How glad the disciples are to see their Master!

Thomas was not with them this time. When he heard of it, he said, "I will never believe it, unless I can put my finger into His wounds, and my hands into His side." — The soldiers had stuck a spear into Jesus' side when He was dead on the Cross.

A week afterwards they were all together. Thomas, too. The doors were carefully locked. Again Jesus comes and stands in their midst. He says, "Peace be to you." Then He turns to Thomas. "Thomas," He says, "look at My hands. Put your finger there. Put your hand here into My side. Believe now."

Then Thomas cries out, "My Lord and my God!" It was really His Master.

"Now you believe, because you *see* Me," said Jesus. "But Thomas, they are happy that do not see Me, if they only will believe *My word.*"

That was a lesson to learn, was it not, children?

A lesson for Thomas to learn, and for you.

43. "SIMON, LOVEST THOU ME?"

Simon Peter and six other disciples were together, when Peter said: "I am going fishing." — "We will go, too," said they. But that night they caught nothing. Early in the morning Jesus stood on the shore. They did not know Him. "Children," He said, "have you anything to eat?" "No," they answered. "Throw the net on the right side, and you will find fish." They did, and now they could not haul them all in. Then Peter understood it was their risen Jesus.

When they came to shore, they saw a fire burning, with fish on it, and some bread.

After breakfast Jesus asked Peter: "Simon, do you love Me more than these others do?" "Yes, Master, You know I love You." "Then feed My lambs," said Jesus. Again He asks: "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" "Yes, Master. You know that You are dear to me." A third time Jesus asked: "Simon, son of John, am I dear to you?" Peter felt a little sad that He asked again, and said: "Why, Master, You know everything, You know that You are dear to me." And once more He told Peter to feed His lambs, that is His people, with the Word of God.

You see, children, Peter had trusted in himself too much. That was why he denied Jesus. And now he was to be taught a loving lesson, to lean on Jesus only, and listen only to Jesus' words.

44. JESUS GOES UP TO HEAVEN.

Here is Jesus, up in Galilee, with His eleven disciples.

See, they bow down, and worship Him! And He goes to them and says: "All power in heaven and on earth is given to Me. Go, therefore, and make all nations My disciples, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to obey all things that I have commanded you. And, remember, I Myself am with you every day, until the end of the world."

Then He led them near to Bethany, a small town.

And He lifted up His hands and blessed them.

While He was blessing them, He parted from them, and was carried up into heaven.

And they fell down and worshipped Him, as we do when we pray.

Then they went back to Jerusalem full of joy. There they spent their time in the Temple (church), blessing God.

Why did they go back to Jerusalem? Because Jesus had told them to stay in Jerusalem. How long? Until God sent His Holy Spirit upon them.

45. PENTECOST.

Listen to this wonder-story!

At nine o'clock in the morning of the day of Pentecost the apostles were all together. It was the Festival at the end of the harvest. All of a sudden there comes a sound from the heavens! It was like a strong wind rushing by. It filled the whole house where they were sitting. And look, tongues, like flames of fire, come down. They settle on the head of each person. Wonderful! then all were filled with the Holy Spirit. Just as Christ had promised them. And they all began to speak in new languages, that they did not otherwise use.

And the people were astonished. And they said: "What? How can these men that are from Galilee speak all these languages?" They asked one another: "What does this mean?" But some others that stood around said, "They have had too much new wine." But Peter rose and said: "These men are not drunk; why, it is only nine in the morning! God has fulfilled His promise to send us His Holy Spirit." And then Peter preached. It was a glorious sermon. What do you think? Three thousand people were turned to Christ, were converted. And then they were baptized.

Jerusalem was filled with songs of joy on this Pentecost.

Some call this day the birthday of the Church of Christ.

46. PETER AND JOHN IN THE TEMPLE.

One afternoon, at three o'clock, Peter and John went up into the Temple. It was an hour of prayer. And, just then, some men came carrying a man who had been lame since he was born. He was a poor man, too. So they used to set him down every day close to a gate of the Temple. That gate was called the Beautiful Gate. Poor man, here he sat begging from the people as they went into the Temple.

Peter and John came through the gate. The man asked for some money from them. "Look at us," said Peter, and Peter looked sharp at him. The man thought he would get something. Then said Peter: "I have no silver or gold. But I give you what I have: In the Name of Jesus Christ, get up and walk!" Peter took his hand and lifted him up. Right away his ankles grew strong. He jumped up. He stood straight. He began to walk. He went into the Temple, leaping, and walking around, and praising God. All the people saw him. They were surprised. A crowd came around him. Peter looked on the people, and said: "Why are you surprised at this man? Why do you look at us? We did not do it. It was Jesus, whom you killed, that did it. It was faith in Jesus' Name."

So the Lord Jesus was given praise and thanks for this wonder.

47. STEPHEN.

Have you ever heard the word "martyr"?

A martyr is one who gives his life for Jesus' sake. Stephen was the first Christian martyr. He had to die, because he was a disciple of Jesus.

See, they are stoning Stephen to death!

What has he done?

He has helped the sick and the poor for Jesus' sake. He has preached Christ as Saviour, in the houses, and in the Temple. He was full of the Holy Spirit. The Jews tried to argue him down. They could not. God gave him what he should say. So the Jewish priests said: "This man will not stop speaking against God's Word." Oh, but Stephen had not done what these Jews said! Then they all fastened their eyes hard on Stephen. They hated him so. But "his face was like the face of an angel."

And Stephen preached a long and strong sermon. At last he said that they had murdered Jesus. When they heard this, they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he looked up to heaven. He told them that he saw the heavens opened, and that he saw Jesus, his Saviour. Then they cried out with a loud voice. They stopped their ears with their fingers. They all rushed upon him. And they dragged him out of the city. There they stoned him to death.

While the stones struck him and cut him, he kept praying: "Lord Jesus, take me to Thyself." Then he fell on his knees. "Lord," he said, "forgive them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

There he lies on the ground, cut, bleeding, pale, — dead.

For Jesus' sake, for his love of Jesus!

This is the sad and beautiful story of the first martyr for Christ.

48. PHILIP AND THE EUNUCH.

Philip was a deacon in the church at Jerusalem. He was a preacher of Christ, too.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip: "Get up, and go on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza." He did. And he caught up with a man who was a Negro. He lived in Africa, in Ethiopia. He took care of the Queen's money. He had been to Jerusalem to the Temple. As he was riding in his car, he read the book of Isaiah, in the Bible. Philip ran up to him: "Do you really understand what you are reading?" asked Philip. "How can I," said the eunuch, "unless some one will explain it to me?" — "Step up into my car," he said to Philip. And Philip sat by his side. He had been reading about Jesus suffering for our sins. And Philip explained all to him so clearly, that the Good News about Jesus took hold of the man's heart. And as they were riding along, they came to a little brook. "Look, here is water. Why can I not be baptized?" "Stop the carriage," he said to the driver. And Philip and the eunuch went into the water. Then Philip baptized him. He became a Christian, a child of God.

And the Ethiopian Negro rode on with a glad heart.

This is the first black man from Africa we read of that became a Christian.

49. SAUL'S CONVERSION.

How the greatest enemy of Jesus becomes His greatest friend. Do you want to hear that told?

Saul was very angry with Christ, and with all Christians. He went into the houses. He dragged the Christians out. He put them in prison. He would have killed them all, if he could. Ah, here he is on the way to Damascus, a city far off. He goes to put the Christians in Damascus in chains.

When he was near Damascus, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. See, Saul falls to the ground! A voice calls out: "Saul, Saul, why are you such an enemy of Mine?" — "Who art Thou?" he asked. — "I am Jesus, whom you are trying to harm." Saul shook in his whole body as he lay there in the dust on the road. He said: "What wouldst Thou have me do?" The Lord Jesus answered: "Stand up, go to the city, and they will tell you what to do." When he rose up, he was blind. They had to lead him by the hand into the city. Then Jesus sent a Christian, Ananias, to Saul. He told him of Christ. He showed him how to be saved. God made Saul sorry for his sins. He wished forgiveness from Jesus. Then Ananias baptized him. And God gave him a new heart. Now he began to preach that Jesus was the Son of God. Wherever he came, he asked men to turn to Christ.

After this his name was changed to Paul — *the Apostle Paul.*

50. THE JAILER AT PHILIPPI.

Paul became the greatest missionary Jesus ever had.

Once he and a man named Silas came to Philippi to preach. Some of the people did not like their preaching. So they dragged Paul and Silas to jail. There their clothes were taken off, and they were whipped terribly with rods.

It is now in the middle of the night. Paul and Silas are praying and singing in the jail. The other prisoners are listening to them. Of a sudden an earthquake came. The whole jail shook. Why, even the prison doors flew open! When the jailer awoke, he saw the doors open. And he was going to kill himself, for he was afraid the prisoners had run away. But Paul shouted as loud as he could: "Do not hurt yourself. We are all here."

Then the jailer called a soldier to bring him lights. And he ran in to Paul and Silas. He fell down at their feet and trembled all over. Then he led them out, looked at them, and said: "What must I do to be saved?" "Believe in the Lord Jesus," they said, "and both you and your family will be saved." And they preached Christ Jesus to him.

Then he took them, in the middle of the night, and washed their sores. And, think, he and all his family were baptized! Yes, he even brought them to his house, and gave them a good meal. All in his home were so happy.

They had been heathen, now they were true Christians.

51. TIMOTHY TAUGHT THE SCRIPTURES.

Once there was a little boy, called Timothy. His father was a heathen. His mother was Jewish. He had a grandmother, Lois, and his own mother's name was Eunice. Both his grandmother and his mother believed in God. And when Timothy was a very small boy, they read the Bible to him. Yes, he knew from the time he was a boy what the Bible taught. Happy, was he not?

Paul learned to know Timothy when he was a young man. Now, Timothy was a true Christian, too. And Paul needed some one to travel with him and preach. He took Timothy as his helper. What do you think? Paul says that Timothy was the best helper he had. "I have no one so much like me, as you are, Timothy," he wrote to Timothy in a letter one time.

Timothy was always willing to learn from God. Although Timothy was not very strong, but often sick, God gave him strength to preach Christ in many countries. Do you see what a blessing it was that Timothy learned to know his God, and the Bible, early? Is it not a blessing that you, children, learn the Word of God?

Paul wrote two letters to Timothy. They are in our Bible. Here is one verse: "Timothy, ever since you were a child, you have known the Bible. And it can make you wise, it can give you faith, so that you are saved for heaven, at last." I just make the words simpler, so you all can understand what Paul wrote to Timothy.

52. THE NEW JERUSALEM.

Open all your heart, children, while we read a verse from the last leaf of our Bible: "And I, John, saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God." John the Evangelist saw a vision. That means a picture from God. It was a vision of the heavenly City, called the New Jerusalem.

And why called the *New* Jerusalem?

Because the city David lived in, where Jesus often preached, down here in this world, was the old Jerusalem. It stands yet, but it is old, it is full of sin, it is not beautiful. God wanted it to be lovely and godly. It is not. So the Lord has promised a New Jerusalem. Not here, oh no! It is in the new world. There God's saved children go. The New Jerusalem is in the place we call heaven.

The new City comes from God, for He has made it.

Who will be in the New Jerusalem?

Abel — you remember him —, and Abraham, and Joseph, and Elijah, and Samuel with his mother Hannah, and David, the king, and Isaiah, and John the Baptist, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the eleven disciples, and Stephen, and Paul, and Timothy, and Luke, and thousands of thousands from all lands and all times, men, women, children, Jews, Greeks, Negroes, Eskimos, Chinese, Europeans, Americans, all who have loved Jesus and believed in Him, from the beginning of the world to the end of the world.

Did we forget One more who will be there? Who?

Jesus! And with Jesus all His holy angels.

Oh, the songs in the New Jerusalem, and oh, the music of the harps! No sickness, no sorrow, no war, no heavy work. Only joy, light, love, happiness, forever and forever.

God bring us all to the New Jerusalem!

The Texts of Bible Stories.

1—Jesus laid in the manger	Luke 2: 1—7
2—Angels appear to the shepherds	Luke 2: 8—20
3—The Child Jesus brought to the Temple	Luke 2: 21—39; Matth. 1: 21
4—The Wise men	Matth. 2: 1—11
5—Jesus and His home in Nazareth	Luke 2: 39—40, 51—52
6—The Boy Jesus in the Temple	Luke 2: 41—49
7—Giving the child John a name	Luke 1: 8—13, 59—63
8—John the Baptist preaches and baptizes	Matth. 3: 1—12
9—Jesus baptized and tempted	Matth. 4: 1—11
10—John the Baptist points to Jesus	John 1: 29—37
11—The first disciples of Jesus	Matth. 4: 17—23
12—The wedding at Cana	John 2: 1—11
13—Jesus and the woman of Samaria	John 4: 5—26
14—The nobleman comes to Jesus for his son	John 4: 46—54
15—The sermon on the Mount	Matth. 5: 1—12; 7: 7—12, 24—27
16—The healing of the palsied man	Mark 2: 1—12
17—The calling of Matthew	Matth. 9: 9—17
18—Christ sending out the Apostles	Matth. 9: 35—38; 10: 1—8
19—The alabaster vase	Luke 7: 36—50
20—John preaches to King Herod	Mark 6: 14—29
21—The feeding of the five thousand	John 6: 1—18
22—The woman of Canaan	Mark 7: 24—30
23—The Good Shepherd	John 10: 1—16
24—The good Samaritan	Luke 10: 25—37
25—Busy Martha	Luke 10: 38—42
26—The prodigal son leaves his home	Luke 15: 11—19
27—The prodigal son comes home again	Luke 15: 20—32
28—Lazarus raised from the dead	John 11: 1—6, 39—44
29—Jesus calling children to Himself	Mark 10: 13—16
30—The rich young man	Mark 10: 17—27
31—The blind Bartimeus	Mark 10: 46—52
32—Zaccheus climbs into the tree	Luke 19: 1—10
33—Jesus riding into Jerusalem	Matth. 21: 1—9
34—The ten virgins	Matth. 25: 1—13
35—Jesus taken captive	Mark 14: 43—50
36—Peter denies Christ	Mark 14: 66—72
37—The crucifixion	Luke 23: 35—47
38—The death and burial of Jesus	John 19: 31—42
39—The angels in the sepulchre	Matth. 28: 1—10; Mark 16: 1—11; Luke 24: 1—12
40—Mary at the sepulchre	John 20: 1—18 (comp. Mark 16: 9—11)
41—The walk to Emmaus	Luke 24: 13—35
42—Doubting Thomas	John 20: 24—29
43—"Simon, lovest thou Me?"	John 21: 1—17
44—Jesus goes up to heaven	Luke 24: 44—53
45—Pentecost	Acts 2: 1—13
46—Peter and John in the Temple	Acts 3: 1—10
47—Stephen	Acts 6: 8—15; 7: 54—60
48—Philip and the eunuch	Acts 8: 26—40
49—Saul's conversion	Acts 9: 1—9
50—The jailer at Philippi	Acts 16: 22—34
51—Timothy taught the Scriptures	2 Tim. 1: 1—8
52—The new Jerusalem	Rev. 21: 1—7

PARTS

OF THE

CATECHISM

AND

PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father, who art in heaven;
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil;
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION.

The Lord bless us and keep us;
The Lord make His face shine upon us, and be gracious unto us;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon us, and give us peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

THE FIRST COMMANDMENT.

I am the Lord thy God.
Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT.

Honor thy father and thy mother,
that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt not kill.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt not steal.

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

THE CREED.

THE FIRST ARTICLE.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

THE SECOND ARTICLE.

I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

THE THIRD ARTICLE.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints;
the Forgiveness of sins;
the Resurrection of the body; and the Life everlasting. Amen.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS.

MORNING.

Now I wake and see the light;
'Tis God has kept me through the night;
To Him I lift my voice and pray,
That He would keep me through this day. Amen.

Lord, I thank Thee for the night,
And the pleasant morning light,
For rest and food and loving care,
And all that makes the day so fair.
Help me, Lord, to love Thee more
Than I ever loved before;
In my work and in my play
Be Thou with me through the day. Amen.

Dear Heavenly Father, thanks be to Thee for rest this night and for good angels' loving care. Keep me, Thy little child, from all sin and evil. Praise be to Thee for my baptism, when I became Thy dear child. Bless mamma, papa, ..., and all in the world, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

EVENING.

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to keep;
If I should die before I wake,
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to take. Amen.

Father, unto Thee I pray,
Thou hast guarded me all day;
Safe I am while in Thy sight,
Safely let me sleep to-night.
Bless my friends, the whole world bless,
Keep me ever in Thy sight. Amen.

Jesus, tender Shepherd, hear me;
  Bless Thy little lamb to-night;
Through the darkness be Thou near me,
  Keep me safe till morning light.

All this day Thy hand has led me,
  And I thank Thee for Thy care;
Thou hast clothed me, warmed, and fed me,
  Listen to my evening prayer.

May my sins be all forgiven;
  Bless the friends I love so well:
Take me, Lord, at last to heaven,
  Happy there with Thee to dwell. Amen.

God protect me in this night
By beloved angels bright.
And make me, through Jesus' blood,
Pure from sins, kind, loving, good.
For Jesus' sake. Amen.

BLESSING AND THANKSGIVING AT TABLE.

Before Meat.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest,
And let Thy gifts to us be blest. Amen.

Lord God, our Heavenly Father, bless us and these Thy gifts which we receive from Thy bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

The eyes of all wait upon Thee, O Lord, and Thou givest them their meat in due season; Thou openest Thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Amen.

After Meat.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever. Amen.

We give Thee thanks, O God our Father, for all Thy benefits, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who, with Thee, liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. Amen.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. Amen.

JOHN 3: 16.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

MATTHEW 5: 3—10.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

TWENTY-THIRD PSALM.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He guideth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and loving-kindness shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

HYMNS.

Again Thy glorious sun doth rise,
  I praise Thee, O my Lord;
With courage, strength, and hope renewed,
  I touch the joyful chord.

On good and evil, Lord, Thy sun
  Is rising as on me;
Let me in patience and in love
  Seek thus to be like Thee.

May I in virtue and in faith,
  And with Thy gifts content,
Rejoice beneath Thy covering wings,
  Each day in mercy sent.

Safe in Thy care, O Lord, I may
  With joy my course pursue,
And feel that still Thy bounteous grace
  Is every morning new.

Now the day is over,
  Night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening
  Steal across the sky.

Jesus, give the weary
  Calm and sweet repose,
With Thy tenderest blessing
  May my eyelids close.

Through the long night-watches
  May Thine angels spread
Their white wings above me,
  Watching round my bed.

Glory to the Father give,
God in whom we move and live;
Children's prayers He deigns to hear,
Children's songs delight His ear.

Glory to the Son we bring,
Christ our Prophet, Priest, and King:
Children, raise your sweetest strain
To the Lamb, for He was slain.

Glory to the Holy Ghost,
Who reclaims the sinner lost;
Children's minds may He inspire,
Touch their tongues with holy fire.

Glory in the highest be
To the blessed Trinity,
For the gospel from above,
For the word that God is love.

O Jesus Christ, Thy grace us lend,
Thy hold Spirit to us send,
Lift up our hearts, hear us, we pray,
And lead us in life's narrow way!

Help us, O Lord, Thy Name to praise,
On us bestow Thy power and grace,
Increase our faith, give us Thy light
To hear and keep Thy Word aright!

Till we in heaven with one accord
Sing, "Holy, holy, holy Lord,"
And there in glory Thee behold,
Revealed 'mid angel hosts untold.

Praise to the Father and the Son,
And to the Spirit, Three in One,
Yea, to the Holy Trinity
Be praise throughout eternity!

Bless us, Father, and protect us,
  Be our souls' sure hiding-place,
Let Thy wisdom still direct us,
  Light our darkness with Thy grace!
Let Thy countenance on us shine,
Fill us all with peace divine.
Praise the Father, Son, and Spirit,
Praise Him all that life inherit!

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